

HOUSE BILL 1980

By Hood

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-4-9__.

(a) Postsecondary institutions are encouraged to identify Tennessee HOPE scholarship and Tennessee HOPE access grant students who are in jeopardy of losing financial assistance from lottery proceeds as early as possible in such students' postsecondary careers. Every postsecondary institution enrolling Tennessee HOPE scholarship and Tennessee HOPE access grant students shall establish an academic advisement program designed to assist such students in retention of scholarships. Such program shall assist students in the selection and scheduling of courses, and with study skills, time management skills, and skills in other areas as the advisement program finds appropriate for students in general or in particular. Such program shall refer students to resources, including on-campus resources, for assistance with nonacademic problems, including, but not limited to, depression, eating disorders and relationship problems.

(b) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship or a Tennessee HOPE access grant who fears potential loss of such postsecondary financial assistance may request help from the postsecondary institution's academic advisement program for lottery scholarship and grant recipients. Such request

may be made at any point in the student's postsecondary career when the student realizes that loss of the scholarship or grant is probable. The student and the academic advisement program shall draw up a plan to aid the student in retention of postsecondary financial assistance from lottery proceeds.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 49-4-911(c) or § 49-4-920 to the contrary, if a lottery scholarship student seeks assistance from the postsecondary institution's academic advisement program designed to aid students in jeopardy of losing financial assistance from lottery proceeds and does not achieve the cumulative grade point average required when scholarship eligibility is reviewed under § 49-4-911, then the student may petition the postsecondary institution for an additional twenty-four (24) semester hours in which to achieve academic eligibility. If the postsecondary institution finds that the student has made a good faith effort to achieve academic eligibility and is fully participating in the plan drawn up by the student and the academic advisement program, then the institution shall certify to TSAC that the student is in good faith attempting to achieve academic eligibility and is fully participating in the plan and that achievement of academic eligibility after an additional twenty-four (24) semester hours is feasible. Upon the institution's certification, the student shall be granted an additional twenty-four (24) semester hours in which to meet the requirements of § 49-4-911 with continued funding from the scholarship or grant that the student previously received. After the student has attempted an additional twelve (12) semester hours during the extension, the academic advisement program shall reevaluate the student's progress and adjust the student's plan, if necessary. If the student's rate of progress after twelve (12) additional semester hours is unlikely to result in academic eligibility at the end of

the extension of twenty-four (24) semester hours, the program shall advise the student that the loss of postsecondary financial assistance from lottery proceeds is probable. If the student fails to achieve the required cumulative grade point average at the next time academic eligibility is reviewed, the student shall cease to be eligible academically for a scholarship until the student achieves the required cumulative grade point average at a time when academic eligibility is reviewed under § 49-4-911. An extension of twenty-four (24) semester hours shall not be granted, if it is mathematically impossible for the student to achieve the required cumulative grade point average after the extension.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.